

Attorney Docket No. 22394.00

IN THE APPLICATION
OF
STEVE GREGORY
FOR A
WATERING JUG FOR PLANTS

WATERING JUG FOR PLANTS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to watering cans or jugs, and more particularly to a trickle jug having a spout and valve for limiting the flow of water, for thoroughly soaking the soil around a plant while using a minimum amount of water for maximum results.

10 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

Containers, cans or jugs of different sizes and shapes including valve for controlling the flow of water for watering plants in pots and garden have been the subject of related patents. For example:

15 U.S. Patent No. 1,453,401, issued May 1, 1923 to Mattson, discloses a plant irrigator for dispensing water in any desired volume for watering a plurality of plants without any attention from the user.

U.S. Patent No. 4,115,951, issued September 26, 1978 to Becker et al., describe an apparatus for feeding a continuous

supply of liquid to the soil surrounding potted plants. It includes a soil probe with variable aperture for moisturizing the soil in the potted plants.

5 U.S. Patent No. 5,076,009, issued December 31, 1991 to Cibor, describes a water supply system including tubing connected to a sealed float valve assembly for feeding water to a Christmas tree stand having a reservoir.

10 U.S. Patent No. 5,806,240, issued September 15, 1998 to Racine, describes a system for supplying dripping water to plants comprises a support for holding the container upright over the soil to be watered. It includes a tube for feeding water and a screw valve to limit the volume of water.

15 U.S. Patent No. US 6,185,866 B1, issued February 13, 2001 to Enfaradi, describes a transparent water container having a drip hose and clamp at the bottom, for regulating the flow of water.

None of the above inventions and patents, taken either singly or in combination, is seen to describe the instant invention as claimed. Thus a watering jug for plants solving the aforementioned problems is desired.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention is a watering jug with a capacity ranging from 1 to 2 gallons. The container is made of plastic, metal or ceramic. The container is oval shaped and includes a handle at top. The container top includes a small opening in the center below the handle for filling the jug and a delivery pipe and valve combination located at the bottom of the container for regulating the flow of water. The delivery pipe and valve combination includes a small pin-sized opening for producing a trickling of water in the soil around a plant in the pot or in a garden for a period during which the plant cannot be attended. The delivery pipe and valve combination includes a twist type mechanism for closing and opening the pin-sized opening. The container may include legs at the bottom for providing stability to the water filled container when placed on uneven surface. The container bottom may not include any legs and the bottom of the container may be made smooth flat and wide enough to be placed on the ground without toppling over. In one embodiment the bottom of the container, may include legs of unequal height, so as to provide a gentle slope to the exiting water.

In another embodiment the bottom of the container may be sloped to provide flow to the exiting water. It is understood that the invention is not limited to arrangement and components as set forth above. The container may be shaped like a bird or any other animal figure for providing a pleasing appearance.

Accordingly, it is a principal object of the invention to provide a portable watering jug with a small pin-sized opening for trickling of water which allows sufficient time for the soil to absorb and produces no waste or runoff.

5 It is another object of the invention to provide support legs at the bottom for the jug.

It is a further object of the invention to limit the waste of water during drought or water restriction conditions.

10 Still another object of the invention is to provide a simple twist type delivery pipe and valve combination for regulating the water.

It is an object of the invention to provide improved elements and arrangements thereof for the purposes described which is inexpensive, dependable and fully effective in
15 accomplishing its intended purposes.

These and other objects of the present invention will become readily apparent upon further review of the following specification and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

20 Fig. 1 is an environmental, perspective view of a watering jug for plants with a flat bottom according to the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a sectional view through a center vertical plane of the jug as shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is an environmental, perspective view of a watering jug with support legs or feet.

Fig. 4 is a sectional view through a center vertical plane of the jug as shown in Fig. 3.

5 Similar reference characters denote corresponding features consistently throughout the attached drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

10 The invention is a watering jug 10 for supplying trickling water to plants, which essentially comprises a container 12. As shown in figure 1, the watering jug 10 is lightweight, portable and designed to supply trickling water to plants in pots and in the garden. The rate of trickling is such that it does not lead to water overflow. The main purpose is to feed plants without constantly attending to the watering of plants.

15 As illustrated in figures 1-4, the watering jug 10 includes a top 16 having a hole 20 in the center located below the handle 14 for filling. A screw type delivery pipe and valve combination 22 with a pin-sized opening 24 is provided at the bottom 18 of the container 12 for opening and closing the flow of water. In
20 one embodiment, as shown in figure 2, the interior surface 26 at the bottom 18 of the container 12 is sloped and in the other embodiment, as shown in figure 4, the interior surface 28 at the bottom 18 of the container 12 can be stepped to provide a smooth flow to the exiting water. In one embodiment, as shown in figure 2, the bottom 18 of the container 12 is flat and wide enough to provide stability to the watering jug 10 while standing upright

on the ground, and in the other embodiment, as shown in figure 3, the bottom 18 of the container 12 includes a pair of unequal legs or support feet 30 and 32 as illustrated in figure 4. The legs 30 and 32 assist in holding the watering jug 10 in an upright position, and raises the height of the delivery pipe and valve combination 22 above a support surface. The watering jug 10 includes a handle 14 in the center for carrying. The delivery pipe and valve combination 22 includes a cap 34 for the opening 24, located at the bottom of the container 12, when not in use.

10 It is to be understood that the present invention is not limited to the embodiments described above, but encompasses any and all embodiments within the scope of the following claims.